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later published in ten large volumes. Thomas Schoonover has excerpted these volumes, translated his selections, added introductory comments, and brought them out in two slender books, *Mexican Lobby: Matías Romero in Washington, 1861–1867* (1986) and the present one.

Schoonover's editorial work is unexceptionable, with informative biographies and appraisals of Romero (many passages are duplicated in the two books) and notes referring the reader to numerous monographs. On a superficial description of their content, the two books ought to be a fascinating addition to the voluminous Civil War literature, presenting the views of a "man from Mars," fluent in English and eager to buttonhole one and all. *Mexican Lobby* makes a valuable contribution to the narrow field of U.S.-Mexican relations, although a true scholar working up a monograph or article really ought to consult the original volumes or manuscripts in Spanish.

A Mexican View, however, is disappointing, for it mainly chronicles troop movements and political machinations, reported either from newspaper accounts or Washington scuttlebutt (Romero seldom says which). The passages of true insight are few: an analysis of the slavery problem and its future in *Mexican Lobby,* revealing accounts of squabbling in the Union army, speculation on Reconstruction (marred by a prediction that it will be easier than most think), and a few others. Romero was handicapped by his dislike of both William H. Seward and Abraham Lincoln because of their lukewarm attitude toward Mexico's problems; indeed, he completely ignores Lincoln's assassination. It is known that Romero intrigued against Lincoln's reelection and for Andrew Johnson's impeachment, but naturally he does not mention these activities. If one could document them, they might be worth an article, as a footnote to history.

Indiana University DAVID M. PLETCHER

New Mexico's Buffalo Soldiers, 1866–1900. By Monroe Lee Billington. (Niwot, University Press of Colorado, 1991. xvii + 258 pp. $29.95)

"Buffalo Soldiers" were the black soldiers of the post-Civil War U.S. Army, serving in segregated regiments with white officers. In recent decades their service has become the object of considerable scholarly and popular attention. Two books in particular,

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William Leckie, *The Buffalo Soldiers,* and Arlen Fowler, *The Black Infantry in the West, 1869–1891,* provide the essential and informative accounts of these units. One might ask whether Monroe Lee Billington's volume is necessary, but there are reasons for approving his book. Leckie and Fowler each deal only with one of the combat arms, and they cover the whole western service of these regiments. Leckie concentrates on a blow-by-blow account of the Indian campaigns of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry regiments, while giving some idea of the conditions under which they served. Billington's idea is to write a complete history of the black infantry and cavalry regiments during their time in one western territory—a social as well as a combat history.

New Mexico was one of the remoter parts of the national domain in the years after the Civil War, its population a unique ethnic mixture which included a large Indian population, portions of which objected strongly to the intrusions of whites. Black soldiers served in the territory for all but six of the years Billington covers. They were a significant part of the frontier army, especially the hard-worked cavalry, and an even more significant part of the military force in New Mexico.

Any historian of the buffalo soldiers suffers from the lack of primary, written testimony from the soldiers themselves, but Billington has uncovered letters and investigation testimony that illuminates the lives of these often faceless men.

The inevitable concern of the historian writing about black soldiers is the amount of racial prejudice they encountered. Billington makes the point that there was considerable prejudice against all regular soldiers among civilians in this era, and that the buffalo soldiers suffered from this attitude as well as because of their color. It is clear, nonetheless, from his account that many New Mexico civilians despised the blacks especially, and that the murder of a black soldier would probably go unpunished. Some of their own officers, similarly prejudiced, were verbally and physically abusive. Billington questions, however, the common assertion that the army itself deliberately discriminated against the black regiments in the allocation of equipment and food supplies. It would be interesting to know if the Hispanic population of New Mexico differed significantly from the Anglos in their racial attitudes, but the author does not address this question.

Billington's work is valuable because it is so well-rounded, studying almost every aspect of the service of the black regiments in New Mexico that is accessible to research. Small as it was, the

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frontier army played an important part in the history of the western territories. Similar studies of other areas, for white as well as black units, would be welcome.

University of Nebraska, Lincoln THOMAS W. DUNLAY

A Legacy of Change: Historic Human Impact on Vegetation in the Arizona Borderlands. By Conrad Joseph Bahre. (Tucson, University of Arizona Press, 1991. xviii + 231 pp. $29.95)

No one, it seems, will refute the fact that arroyos have been deeply gullied, that grasslands have been taken over by shrubs, and that riparian wetlands have largely disappeared in southeast Arizona since the 1870s. What is the cause of these changes? Is it a shift in climate to increasing aridity and more intense rain showers as some would suggest, or is it the result of human activity, of land uses like woodcutting, grazing, road building, agriculture, urbanization, and fire suppression? Conrad Joseph Bahre, who has been searching for an answer since at least 1977, is convinced, and wants to convince us, that humans are the root cause. He builds a strong argument by bringing evidence from an exhaustive literature review and from his own research to systematically refute the climatic hypothesis.

A Legacy of Change is presented in two parts. Part one focuses on historic vegetation change and begins with an excellent overview of physiography, vegetation patterns, and settlement history that could stand alone as a concise geography of southeastern Arizona. After carefully reviewing previous studies, Bahre presents his research of vegetation change based on General Land Office surveyors' notes, repeat ground photography (eleven sets showing changes from the late 1800s to the present are presented), and repeat aerial photography (two sets included). There is clear evidence, he believes, for an increase in brush and scrubby trees in rangelands, a steady increase in the area cleared for settlement, and continued loss of riparian vegetation, but no evidence for directional vegetation change since 1870 that is "clearly linked to any trends, changes, or fluctuations in the climate" (p. 103).

Part two explores historic human impacts since 1870. The treatment here, although sometimes repetitive of themes presented earlier in the book, is nonetheless an excellent primer on the effects on the region's vegetation of such human activities as livestock grazing, fire suppression, fuelwood cutting, introduction of exotic

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